

2-23-84

Vol. 35 No. 18

Van Nuys, California

# Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley College

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1984

## Board, AFT reopen salary negotiations

By DAVID BOHRER, News Editor

A proposal to refuse to grant salary increases to members of the certificated unit of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) College Guild was introduced yesterday at a meeting of the L.A. Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees meeting.

The district introduced the proposal in response to an AFT request for a 15 percent salary increase for the 1984-85 school year and an additional \$400 increase for the 1984-85 year, according to acting AFT President Marty Hittleman.

The salary negotiations are the result of a "reopener" clause written into the original certificated unit contract ratified last October. The clause allowed for the reopening of negotiations once the LACCD received its allocated \$11 million

from the \$96.5 restored to the state's community colleges last month.

The district also denied the AFT demands for increased fringe benefits for the certificated employees, which include counselors, librarians, and all instructors.

Defending the demands for increases for the certificated employees, Hittleman said, "We believe this is a reasonable amount of money to ask for, considering the amount of money the state has given the district. It just depends on how willing the district is to spend its money on salaries."

Valley's AFT Chapter Chairperson Sylvia Lubow said, "We have our negotiating team together. We hope it won't come down to a fight

or even a strike, but if it should, we're ready."

Formal negotiations between the AFT and the LACCD regarding salaries and fringe benefits are scheduled to begin March 1.

"In effect, the teachers have negotiated salaries for everyone, because whatever increase we have received was also given to the administrators and the classified workers," said Lubow.

The contract signed by certificated employees in October left them with no pay raise. They had been asked by the district to accept a five percent decrease in pay and a ten percent increase in workload.

"This time it will be pretty difficult for them to say that they don't have, or can't find, the money," said Lubow.

The district is also currently in contract negotiations with the Unit 1 Technical/Clerical employees, which are also represented by AFT.

"We have a long way to go before we can come to an adequate contract for them (Unit 1)," said Hittleman.

According to LACCD Vice Chancellor of Personnel Services Virginia Mulrooney, who, as former AFT president, was on the other side of the negotiating table in October, "All of the contracts involve a great deal of time because of the financial situation."

## Raining rocks signal needed roofing repairs

By MARY PARCELLS, Production Manager

A sudden shower of rocks greeted the unwary this week as re-roofing began in the Foreign Language and Business Journalism buildings, with no warning signs or barricades in evidence.

Blaming the district for the problem of the falling rocks, David Ogne, building and grounds administrator, said, "The district hired the contractor. A district representative is acting as inspector. He is on the job everyday. He is responsible, not me."

The contract calls for the rocks to be vacuumed off the roof, according to Ogne.

Larry Williams, superintendent for Bob Denny/Roofing, said, "It couldn't be vacuumed because of the problems with access. The access is terrible."

Part of the Deferred Maintenance Program, the project is being financed by a combination of state and district monies. The district awarded the contract to Hedco Development doing business as Bob Denny/Roofing.

Scheduled for re-roofing in fiscal year 1984-85 are the Cafeteria, Arts, and Engineering Buildings.

The Foreign Language Building is scheduled for completion by Feb.

24; the Business Journalism Building should be finished by March 13.

The re-roofing is being done only because it had reached the point one classroom (FL106) could not be used, and several others had to be closed during wet weather.

In addition to the loss of classrooms, more than one hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment was in danger in the Business Journalism Building.

The roofs, 24 years old with a life expectancy of only 20 years, "have been in trouble for four years," said Ogne. "I'm glad the roofers are finally here."

"We've made numerous attempts to patch them ourselves," he said, "but all the fiber had deteriorated. It was porous and the water came right through."

As far as future safety measures go, one barricade had been erected as of Tuesday. Williams commented, "The people who took the rocks off were a different unit. The barricades will be up as long as I'm on the job."

"I'm trying to keep everything as clean as possible. It's a messy job, but we'll keep it as clean as possible," he added.



DAVID BOHRER/Valley Star

**TUMBLING TOTS**—Shannon Johnston (left) and Alex Haskell bounce around during a carnival held at Valley College last weekend. The festival included rides, games, and food, raising over \$4,000 for the Emek Hebrew Academy Day School.

## District to pool financial aid offices; East L.A. campus to be headquarters

By MARILYN MARTINEZ, Assoc. News Editor

The individual financial aid offices at the nine L.A. Community College campuses will be reduced and centralized and moved to East

L.A. College, announced Vice-Chancellor of Educational Services Kenneth Washington at a Board of Trustees meeting yesterday.

The purpose of the centralization, said L.A. Community College District (LACCD) Chancellor Leslie Koltai, "is to make a reasonable organization which can better serve our students."

Many of the problems, according to Koltai, have to do with auditing requests from the federal government which provides the funds and the inability to efficiently process the large number of aid requests from students.

Expressing opposition to the change was Valley's Barbara Kleinschmitt, who is president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Staff Guild.

"Employees will be shifted to other campuses which will cause hardships," said Kleinschmitt, "and we are apt to lose our best qualified employees."

Koltai called Kleinschmitt's prediction "quite accurate. But our employees are employees of the district, not the campus site."

The board approved a new administrative position to head the centralized office. The new Director of Financial Aid Services will be in charge of communications between the nine campuses and the new central location.

Thirty to thirty-five employees will work at the new location, leaving four employees at each of the remaining campus offices.

Koltai said that the only other alternative to this plan was to train employees in more specific financial aid matters which is "less feasible."

Trustee Lindsay Conner said, "Because of tuition we need to have a financial aid system that is tops at this point."

### News Notes

#### GRADUATION PETITIONS DUE

Friday, Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. is the deadline for graduation petitions in order to be eligible to graduate in June '84. Petitions can be obtained in the Credit Office, Rm. 127, in the administration building.

#### WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Challenges and Changes for the Woman is an open discussion group concerning women who are balancing a career and family life. Discussions will be held weekly in the cafeteria conference room beginning Mar. 1.

#### BLOOD DRIVE

The Valley College Bloodmobile is coming Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 28, 29 in Monarch Hall. Sign up in the Student Affairs Office, CC100.

#### CHILD CARE SERVICES OFFERED

The Child Development Center is accepting applications for child care throughout the semester. All fees are dependent upon family income. The Center also offers employment and class projects. Students interested may contact Barbara Sklar-Danon between 2-3 p.m. daily at Ext. 231.

### Perspective

## Heard, but not seen

By JENNIFER KONZE, Staff Writer

If you want to get the right connections, the person to talk to is Erlene Ewing.

Ewing, the first contact an outsider has with Valley, is not your typical telephone operator.

Her hair is not gray and drawn back into a tight bun. Instead it is brown and rests freely upon her shoulders.

The tone of her voice is smooth and rich, unlike the typical sharp nasal tone of the stereotypical operator.

Most of all, she looks like she belongs in front of a camera and not a switchboard.

Ewing has been the voice of Valley College since 1972. What originally was to be a short-term job ended up becoming a full-time position lasting twelve years.

Explaining her reason for staying on for twelve years, Ewing said, "It's the people. It seems as if a little bit of the family grows or leaves, has a baby, gets married, or their kids get married."

Have you been wondering just where Valley has been stashing away this woman with the charming voice? Well...

Tucked away in the Administration Building, just beyond the West counter, in a room with no windows, sits Ewing attending to the continuously lit console.

There is no formal record as to just how many phone calls are received by Ewing, but during registration the calls are non-stop for the full eight hours Ewing is there, and she usually does not have any help during this time.

Ewing is probably best known for her cheerful tone and attitude that comes across the telephone.

"It takes a special kind of attitude," she said, "You don't have it every day. Sometimes you have to force it."

Ewing has worked both the old switchboard, a 555 cord, and the newer computer switchboard, installed in the mid 1970's.

"It was an art," she said remembering the old switchboard. "When your hands started going you'd be going along pulling down cords and sometimes you'd accidentally disconnect someone else's conversation. I loved it (the old board, not the disconnecting)."

With the new system, she is now able to receive twenty-two phone calls at once, over double the amount of the old switchboard, and although she is able to receive all these phone calls, there is still the problem of getting to all of them. People calling may have to wait up to forty rings before she is able to get to them.

For a short period, Ewing was answering information calls as well as the switchboard. It was quickly realized as physically impossible.

There is a book kept of odd and unusual calls that have been received during the past twelve years.

In this book the subject of the calls range from a gentleman wanting the operator to go outside to see if it is raining to parents looking for their "children."

Of all the calls received, the most are for Admissions.



JOYCE SILVERSTEIN/Valley Star

Ewing has received only one obscene phone call since she has been here. In fact, the obscene call was received this semester.

"You learn a lot about people. You learn the idiosyncrasies of all the professors here," she said explaining the "Ones who delve into the system and know how to work it... others that don't want to try and some that forget minute to minute."

After being an telephone operator for so long, she

can tell the ethnic background of most callers as well as their approximate age.

"I have to come in with the attitude 'there is a new crop each year and they need help.' Not everyone can do this."

Ewing agrees with Valley President Mary Lee's belief that, "This place is a big family. It's the friendliest college you've ever seen. Until you leave this place, you don't realize it."



## STAR EDITORIALS

## Lebanon: Reagan reversal

The words "naïve" and "simplistic" are being used by political commentators to describe Ronald Reagan's policies regarding the Lebanon crisis.

"Ignorant" and "arrogant" would far better describe the President's mishandling of a complex, volatile situation in which gunboat diplomacy had no place.

Now that Reagan, sniffing a shifting November wind, has called for a total disengagement (read retreat) of U.S. troops from Lebanon, some pertinent questions are in order.

How could Reagan even begin to believe that U.S. involvement in the Lebanese cauldron of hatred could be remotely constructive? The warring factions of the area have consistently shown that their animosity for each other is only exceeded by their hatred of any outsiders who try to influence the balance of power.

Trying to enforce the validity of Christian, pro-Western Amin Gemayel's presidency in the light of his obviously weakening base of power while ignoring the strength of the various restless Muslim Factions who make up the majority of the population was idiocy.

Why would Reagan seriously place stock in any peace treaty, such as the one conjured up by Secretary of State Shultz last May, when Syria was not considered in the negotiations? Dealing only with Israel and ignoring Syria led

the world to correctly perceive Shultz as willing to promote "democracy" in the area only so long as it was an American brand.

And what could Reagan have hoped for by sending U.S. Marines into Lebanon? The calvary may ride to the rescue in 'B' movies, but in this case, the presence of American soldiers only fanned the fire of hatred. Muslim Shiites and Druse factions, to whom terrorism is a common tool for regaining what they consider to be theirs, doomed the "peacekeeping" mission from the beginning. Naval gunfire is no match for trained terrorists with an obsession for vengeance.

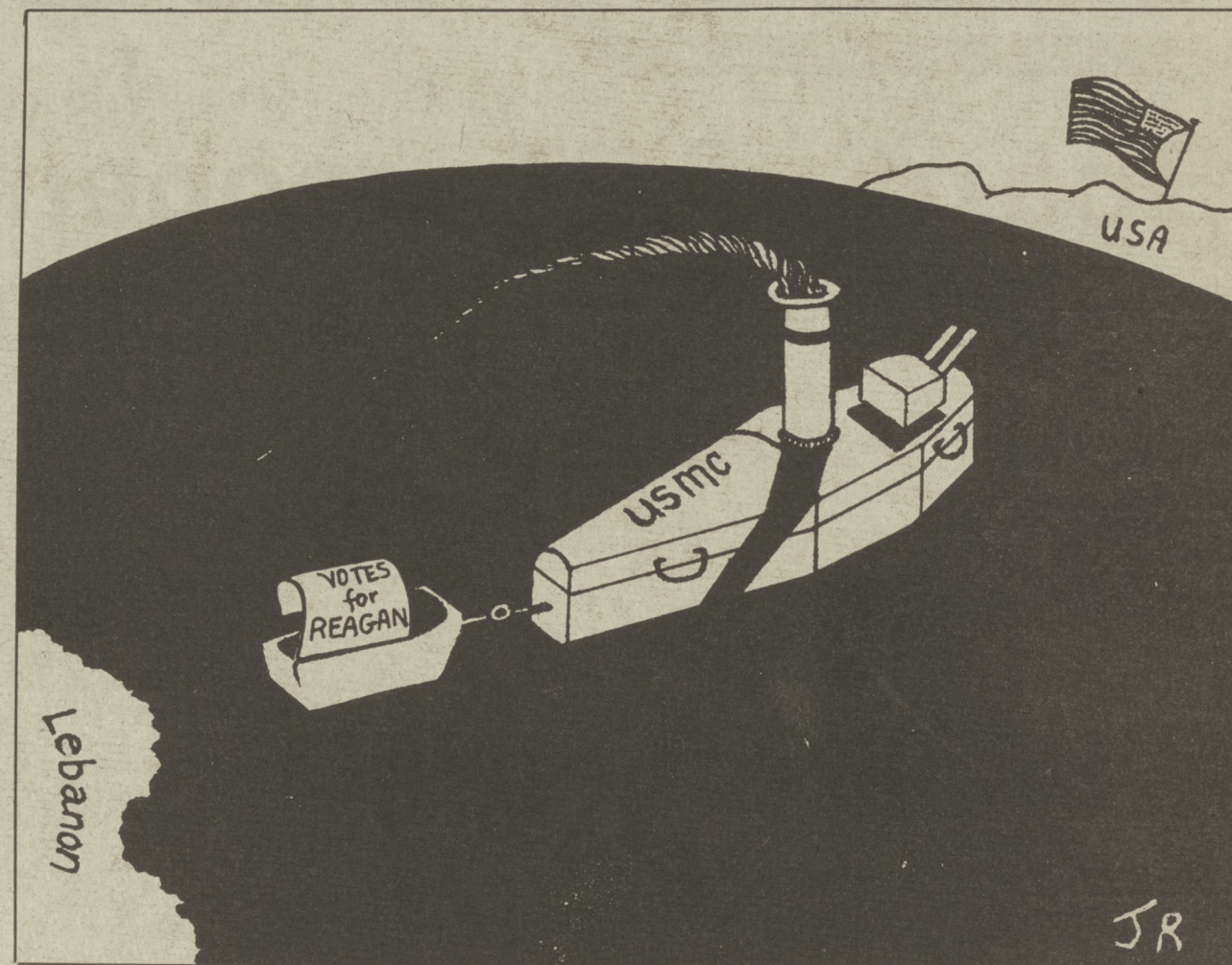
Lastly, how could anyone have confidence in the Reagan administration when two top officials have expressed such callous indifference to the enormous losses suffered in this disastrous undertaking?

Vice-president Bush said of the pullout, "Well, it's not the end of the world." The American commitment to peace in Lebanon may seem inconsequential to Mr. Bush, but to the 300 American families who lost children in the debacle, it was very important.

Reagan, in an about-face on his stated position on the importance of stability in Lebanon, says that "Lebanon's troubles are just part of the overall problem in the Middle East."

It becomes increasingly clear that the United States can no longer afford to have as president a man whose foreign policy is based on concepts that are destructive and dangerous.

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## Letters to the Star

## Sponsorship clarification

Dear Editors:

On behalf of my club, the LAVC Alliance for Survival, I wish to make it clear to all concerned that the Alliance was not a secondary sponsor of the Cardinal event at the time it took place.

We rescinded our sponsorship on Wednesday of the week before the event, after the flyer was printed. We felt it would not be in our best interests to continue our support of this event since it appeared that the planning committee was not well-organized or intended to carry out its original program as presented to us.

Any members of the Alliance who participated did so as individuals and were not accountable to the club in any official capacity at that time.

Mr. Steve Appel was premature in releasing any information to the press on our behalf, as may have

been his intent. He should have checked with us first.

Yours sincerely,  
Theresa Moore, President  
LAVC Alliance for Survival

## A personal choice

Dear Editor:

In reply to Tom Carlucci's reply to Frann Bart's editorial entitled "Prayer: A New Addition to the Three R's."

Number one, not everyone trusts in "God." But be that as it may...

Not advocating prayer in school is not denying Christians their right to carry that faith with them to school, it is just not allowing the Christian faith to be imposed upon the masses, especially impressionable children.

Furthermore, should it be decided that a Christian prayer holds relevance inside of the school's curriculum, take into consideration Buddhist "prayer," Jewish "prayer," Moslem "prayer," (good lord) we could be here forever.

And that's exactly what would happen. We may never see our kids. They would be praying all the time. When would they have time to learn to read? Or write? Or fingerprint?

Your comment comparing the teaching of religion to the professing of beliefs and sexual practices, such as "homosexuality" in the schools holds no water as there are no "Introduction to Homosexuality" courses offered in any public or private schools. Your sensationalistic approach is unfounded. There is no comparison.

We have never witnessed, in our lifetime of schooling, any overt oppression of "beliefs, problems, political persuasion, or ... whatever" in a classroom.

Anti-Christian campaigns?!? When was the last time an anti-Christian knocked on your door to

condemn the Word of God? Or handed you a pamphlet denouncing the Christian faith? Or asked for a donation to help support and further education pertaining to atheism? Have you ever received a carnation from an anti-Christ?

As for our Christian founding fathers, you can't possibly be referring to the white Christian males who raped the land of its peoples and cultures? Not just the Blacks from Africa, but the American Indian as well.

Will "Manifest Destiny," "White Man's Burden," and the "selling of indulgences" be taught?

Look before you leap. Religion is a personal choice.

A quote from a different book: "Religion is the opiate of the masses."—Karl Marx.

Food for thought, Comrade.  
Cheri Hubert  
Morag Burt

The Flower Shop by J.Runz



## Give from the heart

Approximately 2 a.m. in the emergency ward downtown, another accident victim is wheeled into the operating room. The doctors cannot operate until a needed supply of blood arrives. While they were waiting, the victim died.

Fortunately, this scenario is very rare thanks to thousands of individuals who donate blood, as illustrated on page 6.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, the American Red Cross will be at Monarch Hall from 8 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. to give us all a chance to save blood.

Donating blood takes between 30 to 45 minutes and costs you nothing. The pint you give is completely replaced by your body in just 56 days.

Although tragedies like the one mentioned happen less and less, there is still a desperate need for blood.

Every day in Los Angeles and Orange Counties more than 1,000 people need blood, and because California has a special law that makes it illegal to use blood that is paid for, the need for volunteers is essential.

Probably the biggest barrier keeping people from giving is the fear of the needle. In reality, the sensation of a pinch contrasted with the ability to save a life makes that barrier seem terribly selfish.

If you are between the ages of 17 and 66, weighing at least 110 pounds and in good health, you now have the opportunity to save a life. Take advantage of it, please.

## TV: Pretty picture or powerful tool?

A resource for learning

By CAROLYN BARRY, Assoc. Copy Editor

The growth of television use is unprecedented. More American families have television sets than indoor plumbing. There are over 150 million sets in the U.S.—more than any other electrical appliance. Over 98 percent of homes have at least one set, and 85 percent of them have two sets or more.

Unfortunately, TV today is a resource that has become a scapegoat for society's ills.

Television theorist Raymond Williams said, "What we call society is not only a network of political and economic arrangements, but also a process of learning and communication."

Television shows, even entertainment ones, informally educate the viewer. Regular programming may incorporate social lessons within the context of a story. Documentaries on various subjects teach on a more intense level. People new to our country find TV helpful for learning our language and culture.

Different types of news shows bring world events to the viewer on a daily basis. Some, like the network evening news shows, cover basic news and political events, while others, like "Nightline," probe deeper into complex issues.

Television news coverage is especially critical for those who cannot read a newspaper. Functional illiteracy is a reality for 20 percent of our population. "One in five adults lack the reading and writing abilities needed to handle the minimal demands of daily life," according to a recent study by the University of Texas at Austin. These people need the view of the world that television gives them.

Public Broadcasting System provides quality educational shows that many in its large audience could afford otherwise.

In the business world, television, still in the infancy stage, is becoming

increasingly important. Conference meetings take place with the participants scattered all over the world. The conference call now has the added dimension of sight, and in-house video education is becoming widespread.

People who are housebound to any degree certainly need the diversity of entertainment and education that TV offers.

Television is just an instrument and cannot be blamed for people's misuse of it. People do not have to watch anything that is objectionable to them. All TV's have on-off knobs.

Many people say that TV viewing is detrimental for children. Some neighborhoods are not safe enough for children to play outside. If they have to stay indoors, they need some form of entertainment and escape.

People using television as an "electronic babysitter" say more about our society than about TV.

Television is an important means of communication. An extraordinary amount of ideas and information are given for the one-time purchase price of the set, with the bonus of being transported to strange lands and exotic cultures.

People can choose the caliber of material they watch, either by not watching unacceptable programs or by complaining to the stations.

TV is a tool, not an end result.

By LISA SHAMES, View Editor

Our worst enemy is closer than you think. It is in almost every home and sometimes in every room. Sitting there unobtrusively you may think you have control over it, but in most cases it controls you.

Television, that wonderful invention that brought the world closer together, is not just a pretty picture. TV is a powerful tool turning us into

mindless zombies.

Television viewing is not unlike taking drugs or alcohol. It allows you to blot out the real world and enter into a different mental state.

Just a flick of the switch and there you are in the past, present, or future. All the day's worries and problems are put aside while you sit completely absorbed in that screen in front of you. One, two, four hours go by before you know it. And what have you accomplished—nothing.

"But I learn so much from television," you say. But just think how much you could learn without it.

Instead of watching TV, why not read? Reading requires unique human processes—verbal thinking and imagination. Books give you an opportunity to think and create, rather than simply providing a diversion.

Television viewing also takes away from another aspect of life—communicating. Who can talk over Johnny Carson?



## ValleyStar

Editorial and Advertising Offices

5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys, CA, 91401 Phone (213) 781-1200, Ext. 276/275

Published each Thursday throughout the school year by students in the advanced writing, editing, and typesetting classes of the Journalism Dept. as a laboratory project in their assigned course work.

Member, California Newspaper  
Publisher's Association  
Member, Associated Collegiate Press

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Represented by CASS  
Advertising Service  
1633 Central St.  
Evanston, IL 60201

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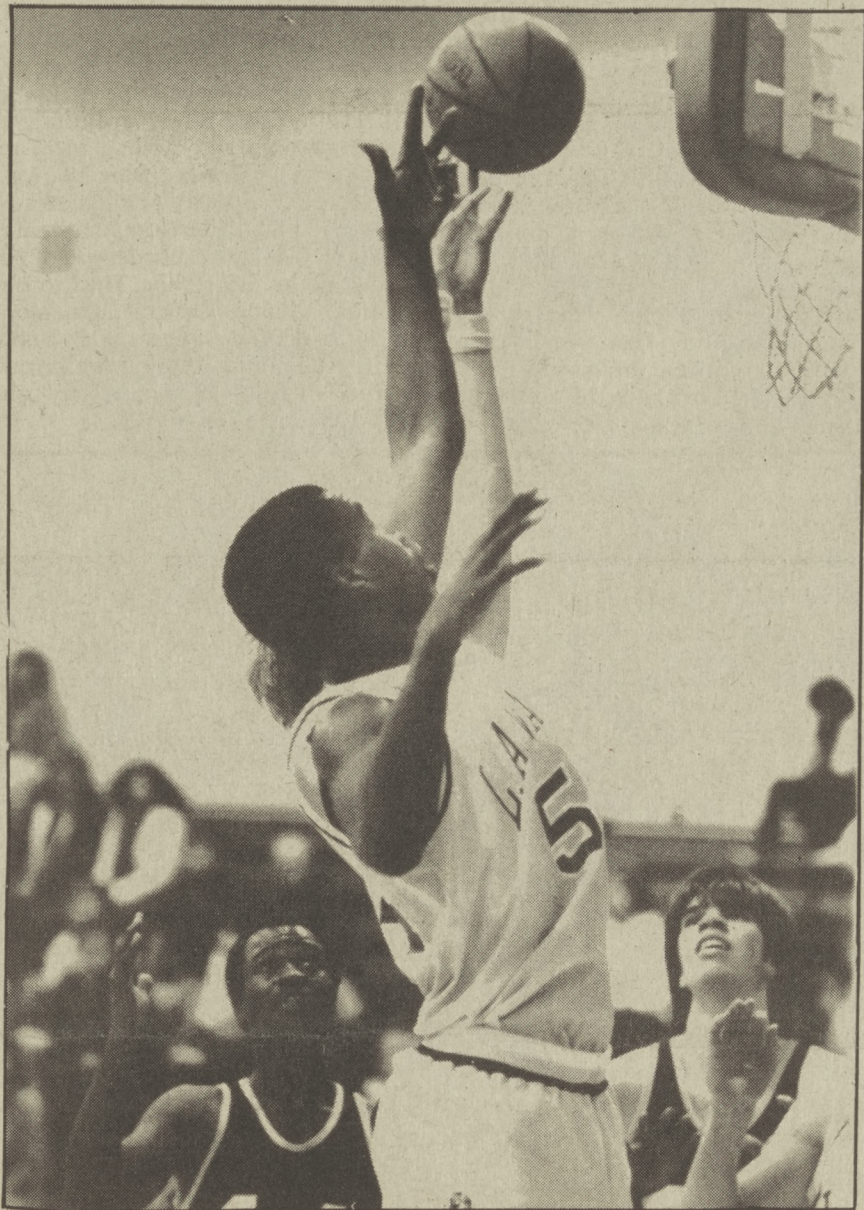
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# Monarchs bring back crown after 3 decades



POETRY IN MOTION—Carey Lewis tips it to the Monarchs.

JEFF ROTH / Valley Star



COACH CASTAGNA—Ruler of the Monarchs.

JEFF ROTH / Valley Star

By JEFFREY PAPES, Sports Editor

The Monarch basketball team garnered Valley's first league champion title since 1955. The victory came last Wednesday night when the Monarchs beat Antelope Valley in one of the three remaining games of the Mountain Valley Conference season.

Past seasons had been somewhat disappointing for Valley with an abysmal record last year of only six wins and a whopping 24 losses.

Fans and relatives of the team have credited the success of this year's team to everything from Head Coach Bobby Castagna's no nonsense brand of coaching to the intense playing of returning sophomores Randy Anderson, Kim Gipson, Kenny Jackson, and Charlie Taylor.

"We had a good bunch of players this year. Their diversity was a strong point," said Castagna. He was referring to the ability of players to fill in for injured players who were unable to play.

The talent that new players such as Jesse Garner, Rob Majerus, Dennis Anderson, Larry Middleton, Carey Lewis, and Glenn Boss displayed contributed to what one Valley coach called "one of the best and hardest working teams I've seen here in awhile."

Some had seemed surprised that the Monarchs were talented enough to win the MVC title. Castagna and the players find it no surprise at all.

"Some people may have doubted us but the players and the few fans who were always at the games knew we could do it [win]," said Castagna.

Team captain Jackson also firmly believed success was imminent throughout the season.

"I knew if we put our minds to it and worked hard we could be league champs," said Jackson.

Mutual respect between the team and the coaches played an integral role during the season.

Castagna, along with volunteer assistant coach Virgil Watson commandeered the respect of the players by setting the ground rules of what they expected but at the same time forming a close camaraderie with the team.

The good relationship between the coaches and players was a key factor in the Monarchs' victory. It was also important for Castagna and Watson to handle the team with a sense of humor. At times, especially in practices, the players looked like a cross between the Lakers and the Marx Brothers.

The Monarchs unique brand of humor was even displayed during games. At Antelope Valley team member Fletcher Curry entered the game wide-eyed, shaking his head. At one point Curry looked as if he wanted to run off the court. Even though he Curry missed both shots, he returned to the bench displaying his usual ear to ear grin. Both the players and the coaches see this relaxed attitude as a necessity.

"We have to have fun sometimes. When something gets too serious you really begin to dread it," said the Monarchs' other team captain, Randy Anderson.

Castagna viewed practices not only as needed preparation for upcoming games but also as an opportunity for players who do not receive much playing time to improve their game.

"During practices the kids who don't play as much as the starters still give it their all. They give just as much as anyone else," said Castagna.

"No one has ever given less than 100 per cent. They all worked the same even when some of them knew they wouldn't be playing the next night," he said.

During both games and practices the team's guardian/trainer Mike Norris was constantly nearby.

"Mike really takes care of the kids. He fixes up their injuries and is there for them to talk to when they need it," said Castagna.

Jackson agreed with Castagna, "Mike keeps us in shape and keeps us going as much as Bobby and Virgil. He's been really great to us."

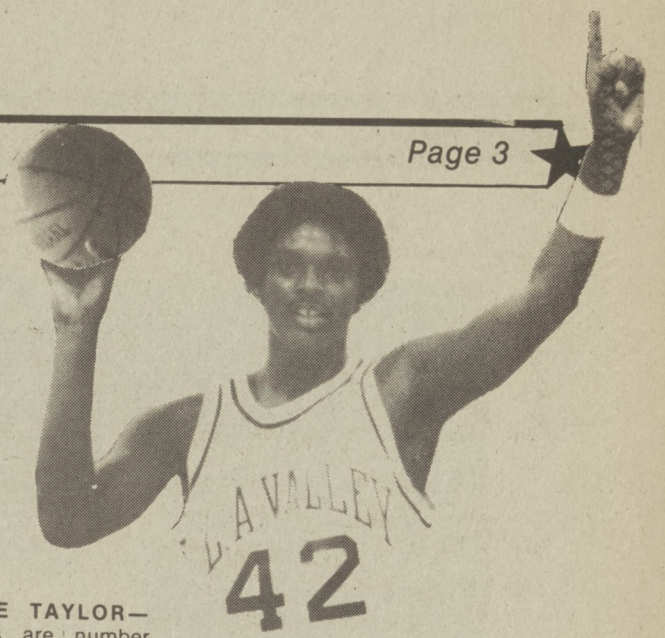
It is apparent from the phenomenal success of this team that this group of coaches, players, and trainers has finally been the good luck charm that Valley basketball had lost for 29 years.

If Valley's season record is composed of complete wins then the team will automatically travel to Fresno for the state championships in March. Castagna predicts that his team will do well under the right circumstances. [Note: no information on last night's deciding game was available at press time.]

"If we go up there and play as strong as we have been all year then I think we can pull it off," said Castagna.

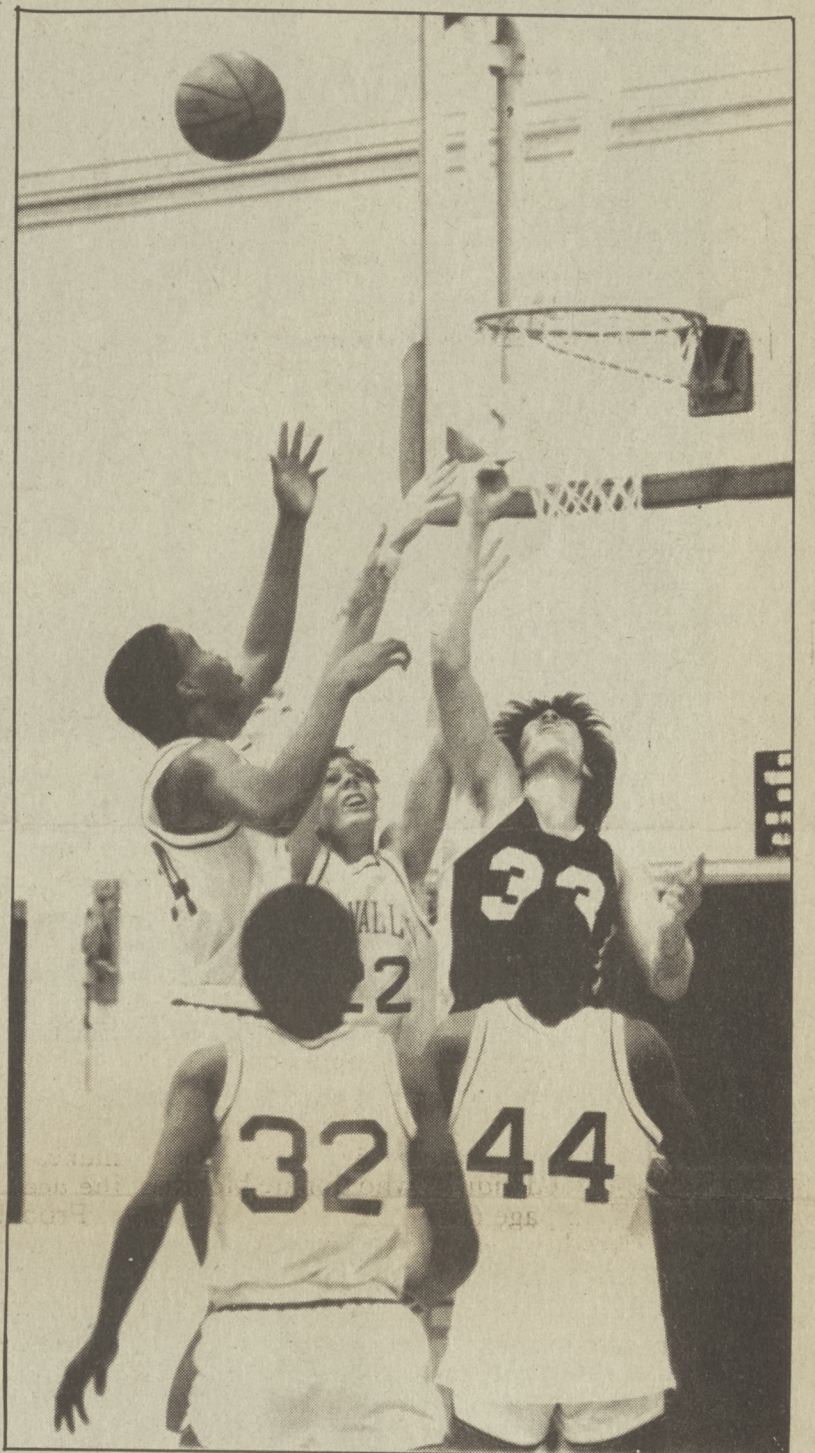
Even if the Fresno championships do not go well, the MVC title is a big notch in the Monarchs' belt.

"We've gone this far undefeated," said Castagna, "so Fresno had better watch out—we're on our way."



CHARLIE TAYLOR—Monarchs are number one.

JEFF ROTH / Valley Star



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FEARSOME FOURSOME AT THE HOOP—Kenny Jackson, Rod Majerus, Larry Middleton, and Carey Lewis go for two points.

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Written by: MARUXA VILALTA

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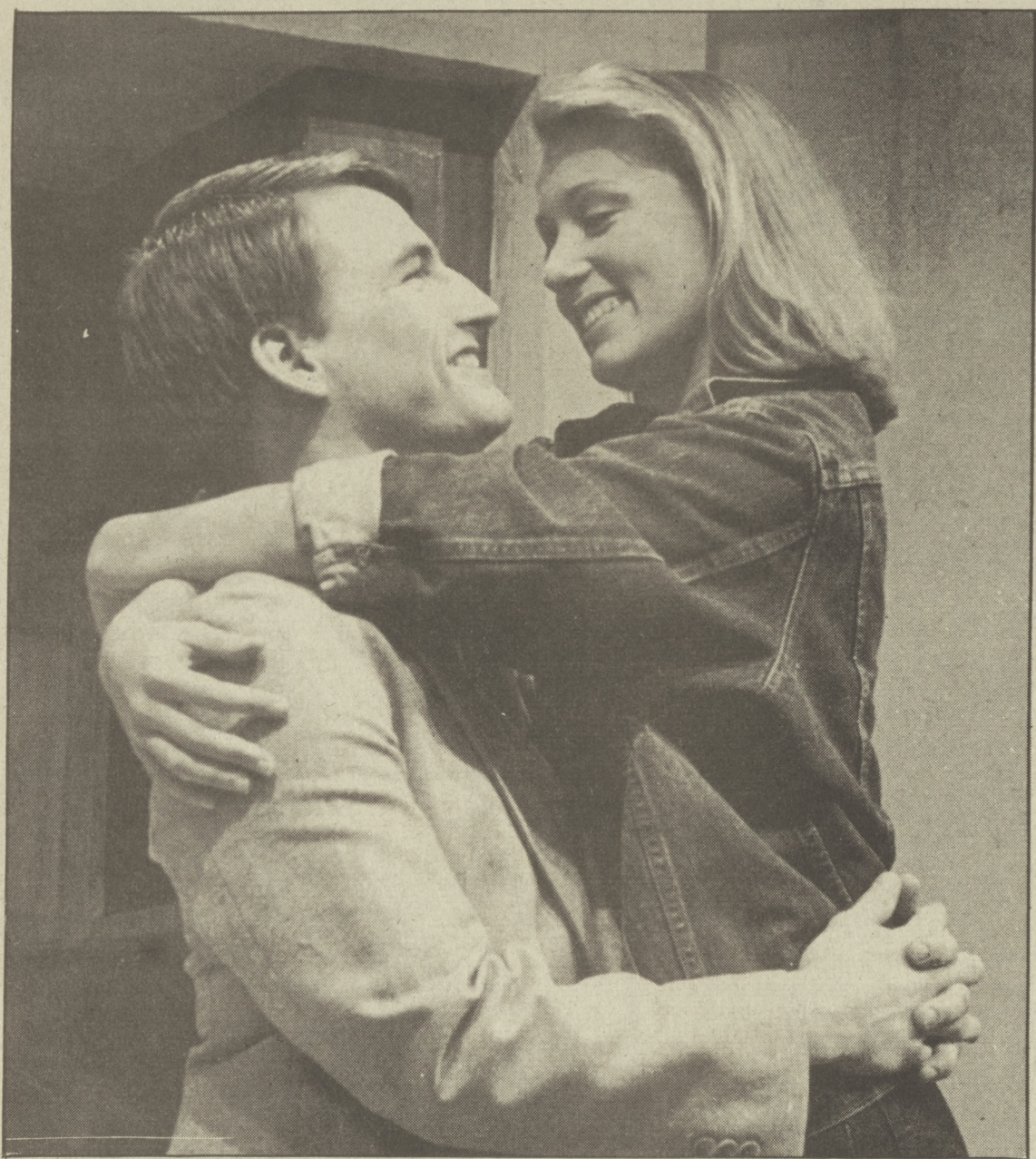
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# 'Barefoot' actors shine in Horseshoe

By KATHLEEN MAHER, Assoc. Editorial Editor



"I'LL KEEP YOU WARM—and there's no charge for electricity." Dave Coennen and Antoinette Spolar cuddle up for their roles as Paul and Corie Bratter in "Barefoot in the Park." The cast also includes Gina Khorigian, Rudy Dale Wright, Tracey Woolley, and Gerald Broderson. The final performances are scheduled for tonight through Saturday, 8:30 p.m. in the Horseshoe Theatre.

For a stretching from the epitome of feather-headed single-mindedness to a mature blending of priorities in the give and take of young marrieds, Neil Simon's play, "Barefoot in the Park," is a delightful vehicle for an hilarious two hours in Valley College's Horseshoe Theatre.

In Act I, Corie, played by Antoinette Spolar, leads the scene, not just with stock wide-eyed looks of blissful egotism and youthful vigor, but one can see a glaze come over her as she genuinely fails to fathom Paul's plea to rise from the bliss of the marriage bed to the bottom rung of the corporate ladder.

Eager youth, strong self-centeredness and emerging womanhood all show up in the concentrated performance of Spolar.

Only slightly hampered by distracting costumes and prop difficulties (talking into a telephone, with a raw cord visible on stage), one sees a resiliency that carries the play, even through a slower Act II where Paul, by Dave Coennen, is left on the fringes, possibly overwhelmed by Corie's heady exuberance.

Though good fun, it is not until the third act when audience and cast alike seem to thoroughly enjoy what is meshing before their eyes on stage. With care and warmth, it is no longer the character of Corie (Spolar), rushing for new experiences with husband in tow. In the third act we see Coennen at his best, funny, bittersweet, and human.

Coennen, however, playing a long-suffering "stuffed shirt", leaves the impression that he is not altogether comfortable in the role. His grins behind lines juxtaposed to Corie's sense of reality reveals more of a tow-headed mischievousness than an harassed corporate-type with a tense night of work ahead.

Gina Marie Khorigian plays Mrs. Banks, Corie's concerned, straight, middle-aged mother—a difficult role requiring predictable expressions of constant concern. Her development, too, emerges in profound hilarity in Act III as she brings new fiber to the part. No longer merely mother of the bride, Mrs. Banks now centers her concerns around discovering where she

fits between the role of "Scarlet Woman" and merging "feminist." Khorigian was full of life in a part that hadn't allowed her much until now, and she looked like she enjoyed it immensely.

Tracey Woolley, portraying Millie Pepper, an A.T.&T. repairwoman, spends little time on stage, but there, in simple gestures, shrugs, and looks, she brings a down-to-earth good humor that draws all eyes to her.

The exotic Victor Velasco, portrayed by Rudy Dale Wright, was extremely sincere in his part, but needed the credibility of additional make-up for his aging role.

Every segment of the play's parts is brought to bear in this modified little theater in the round. From the first act, when we glimpse a stark, empty love nest, to the feeling as each scene shifts with the addition of furniture and props, projecting a sense of time and settling in. The play is well worth seeing as was evidenced by Sunday's delighted audience. Final performances are tonight through Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the Horseshoe Theatre on Fulton Avenue. General admission is \$4, or \$3 for students and senior citizens. Those wishing more information or reservations can may call 781-1200, ext. 318 or 319.



Maze courtesy of Darren Brandon, Artist/Mazist. Additional mazes can be purchased at the bookstore front counter.

## No. 9 sweeps Valley

By MARY PARCELLS, Production Manager

#9. The signs are all over campus. Why are they there? What do they mean? What are they all about? Well...

"It's about the age-old controversy of man versus machine," said Brian Markovitz, a theater arts student.

Still confused? #9 is a one-act play written by Maruxa Vilalta, directed by Markovitz. "It won't be just actors on a stage," said Markovitz, "there will be a multilevel sound experience as well as visual media."

The scene "may take place 20 years from now, or it may have taken place 20 years ago; it's definitely taking place today."

"I feel that it's very critical in today's times because we are faced with a world situation where we have to learn to use our technology for the betterment of the human race. We can't continue our misuse of it and bring about global destruction," Markovitz said.

"Being part of it is great, especially since it's a student production where a student is directing, and everything is student-run. It's a learning experience for all of us," said Michael Sudman, one of the three actors involved in the show.

It is about a factory in which the worker's names have been replaced by numbers like YX157 (#7 for short). The play deals with the interaction of two men who work in the factory and a boy growing up with hopes of one day working there. It is about the struggle to remain an individual in a nameless society.

Ronald Auther plays #9, a flute playing philosopher working in the factory.

"I had a choice between being a

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GETTING ONE ACT TOGETHER—Ron Auther and Rudy Dale Wright rehearse a scene from "9," a play about factory workers in a nameless society. #9 opens next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

tech or an actor, I do both. It's something you do because you love it...or at least it's better if you love it. It's hard to learn lines and take directions that you don't agree with if you don't love it," Auther said.

"Nine is my lucky number," said Rudy Dale Wright, the third actor involved. "I was born on July 9, at 9:09 p.m. I weighed nine pounds. My ring and shoe size are both nine. My favorite sport has nine players and nine innings. When a play turned up called #9, I had to be in it."

Auther said, "I love the group we

have here. They're great, just like a family. We feed off each other, both mentally and physically."

When is it happening?

Performances are scheduled Wednesday, February 29 at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., and Thursday, March 1 at 11 a.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9 p.m. at the Experimental Lab (TA101), the Shoebox Theatre.

Admission is free, and on a first come, first seated basis. The theater seats only 44 people.

"I'm expecting crowds, so come early," warned Markovitz.

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# Helping the handicapped help themselves



**TAKING A BREAK**—John McIver and his sister-in-law Luane Pomerantz, both LAVC students take time for lunch cafeteria.

By CHRIS HASSETT, Staff Writer

*"We must open the door of opportunity. But we must also equip people to walk through those doors."*

Lyndon B. Johnson

Individual freedom is a liberty Americans have enjoyed for over 200 years.

It has allowed us access to more information and a better education, among other things, than is available to the citizens of any other country in the world.

But for nearly 35 million disabled citizens of the United States, individual freedom is limited.

Their access to information, education, employment, and transportation, just to name a few, is hindered by, in many cases, unnecessary dependence on society, unprotected rights and architectural barriers.

In the past 16 years, Congress has passed a number of laws intended to remove those barriers and protect the rights of the disabled. The most important of the legislation came in 1973 with the passage of the

Rehabilitation Act. It was the first law ever passed by the Federal government that was specifically aimed at ending widespread discrimination against disabled persons.

The centerpiece of the Rehabilitation Act is Section 504, which states that "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Section 504 was a powerful declaration for the civil rights of disabled Americans.

Since the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the removal of barriers to help disabled people achieve their goals has been somewhat slow, but nevertheless they have been occurring.

New programs receiving Federal financial assistance are required to make their facilities accessible to, and usable by disabled people. That includes education, transportation, new buildings and public housing.

The educational system has taken a number of steps in removing the barriers. Steps such as building ramps to classrooms, installing equipment for the blind, establishing programs for the hearing impaired, and much more.

The Los Angeles Community College District began taking these very steps back in 1973, and since then Valley College has been one of the front runners in making education more accessible to the disabled.

Under the direction of George Kopoulos, the person in charge of the Special Services program at the time, the administration got involved with the disabled students, saw their needs, and pushed to fulfill them.

Norma Vescovo, executive director of the Independent Living Center in Van Nuys, said it was the positive attitude on the part of Kopoulos and his staff that put

Valley in the forefront of all the other colleges.

"George really pushed that program," she said. "He could see that

District decided to specialize each community college in one area of the disabilities. For example, L.A. City College was to develop a program for the blind, Pierce would develop an extensive program for the deaf, Valley would remove the barriers for the physically disabled, and so on. The program got underway and each college developed excellent programs in their specific areas.

However, even though the district at the time thought that they were complying with the new law, the compliance was actually only partial, because the law stated that each institution must provide the student with any educational aid he or she may need while taking a course. This included readers or tapes for the blind, interpreters for the deaf and barrier-free classrooms for the physically disabled.

Kopoulos, seeing that Valley had a population of blind and deaf students, pushed for better programs in those areas.

Today, even though Pierce still has a better program for the deaf, and L.A. City has a better program for the blind, Valley has a better overall program.

"I think our program is more advanced than any of the other colleges," said Betsy Horning, Assistant Dean of the Special Services program at Valley.

"Mobility on this campus is excellent and our equipment for the blind is probably second only to L.A. City, but you've got to remember that City is right next door to the Blind Institute."

Valley also has programs that deal with the students on a more personal level.

There are several offices for counseling to help the student with their daily problems and needs and there is an assessment program to

are what you might call the first and second generation to flow into that mainstream, so there is still questions as to who will hire them or what fields they can or can't get into. The assessment program is one source of guidance.

There are, however, many more barriers to be broken down. One of them being the attitudes of society.

Many people still feel that disabled people are helpless, dysfunctional individuals that are deserving of charity or someone to help them across the street.

It is still difficult for society to see a disabled person, or someone who is different from the normal, without somehow ranking that individual or group.

Until recently, Blacks and women have been thought of as inferior and therefore were not capable of holding a "real job." It is still difficult today for a woman or a black to reach a high level of employment, and it is rare to find either of them president of any large corporation. And so it goes for the disabled.

years ago, students in certain classes were treated very, very special or given special care.

"Now I go into a classroom and the instructor sees that I am just as

normal as everybody else. I don't see any different treatment, and that is better, because it makes us compete at our own intelligence and not at a special intelligence rating."

Herrera, who was just elected to the office of Handicap Commissioner at Valley, said that there are

further changes to be made on the campus that would benefit everybody.

"I would like to see certain departments sit down and organize themselves to the point where certain classes be taught in the proper buildings.

"For example, I don't want to go to the bungalows to take a math class and then head over to the math building to take a science class, or

*"In my case, I like to be self-dependent. I don't like to always be asking people for help."*

—Louis Herrera

This has been the purpose of much of the legislation passed throughout the past 16 years: to break down the attitudinal barriers. But, while laws can change from day to day, attitudes are slow in changing.

Louis Herrera, a visually impaired student who has been attending Valley since 1982, and briefly in 1978, said he sees change, but the uneasiness is still there.

"Right now," he said, "I see that people are still afraid of the handicapped in general. So it is an uneasy feeling."

take a history class over in the humanities when there is a history department in the Campus Center."

Herrera said that a blind student can't just stop and look at his

schedule everytime they want to find out where a class is being taught. They have to find somebody to do that for them.

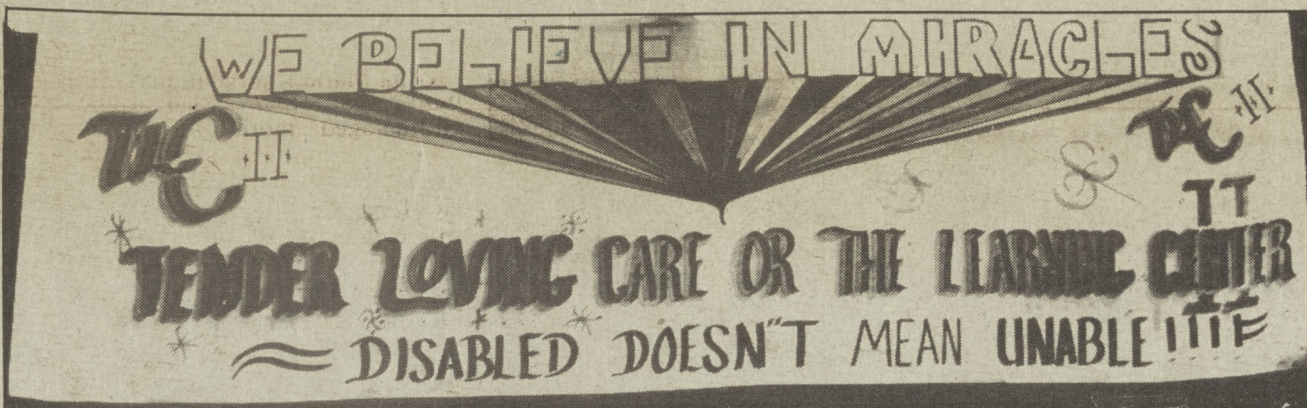
"In my case," he said, "I like to be self-dependent. I don't like to always be asking people for help."

"I am doing a good job of being self-dependent but I could do a better job if things were made a little easier, and that would come with some sort of organization."

His major goal as commissioner, though, is to get some sort of interaction between the people on campus. He wants to set up an awareness day where the students could meet other handicapped students to show them that "Handicapped people are normal, they just require special attention."

"Society sees us as being incapable people," he said. "In other words, they think that 'Oh, he is handicapped, he needs help.'"

"We are capable of going out in the world and meeting challenges that other people meet. Whether we fall or succeed, it is up to us. It's like a person when he falls off a boat, he either sinks or swims."



**WORDS OF WISDOM**—Banner displaying the sentiments of the Handicapped Student Programs and Services organization hangs outside Monarch Hall.

something really needed to be done on that campus, when none of the other colleges could. So he got excited and he became acquainted with

the disabled people and he began understanding their needs, which made all the difference in the world.

"So now Valley is way out in front of all the other colleges, because they had the right attitude."

When the Rehabilitation Act was passed back in '73, the Los Angeles

help the student understand what is available to him educationally and to help steer the student in a direction for employment after school.

This program is very important because many disabled people do not know what their opportunities are. It has only been in the past few

years that a disabled individual has been allowed to join the mainstream of society and its workforce.

The disabled students of today

"I do think the atmosphere at this college has improved. The instructors are more relaxed when they have a handicapped student on their roster, where as even two and a half



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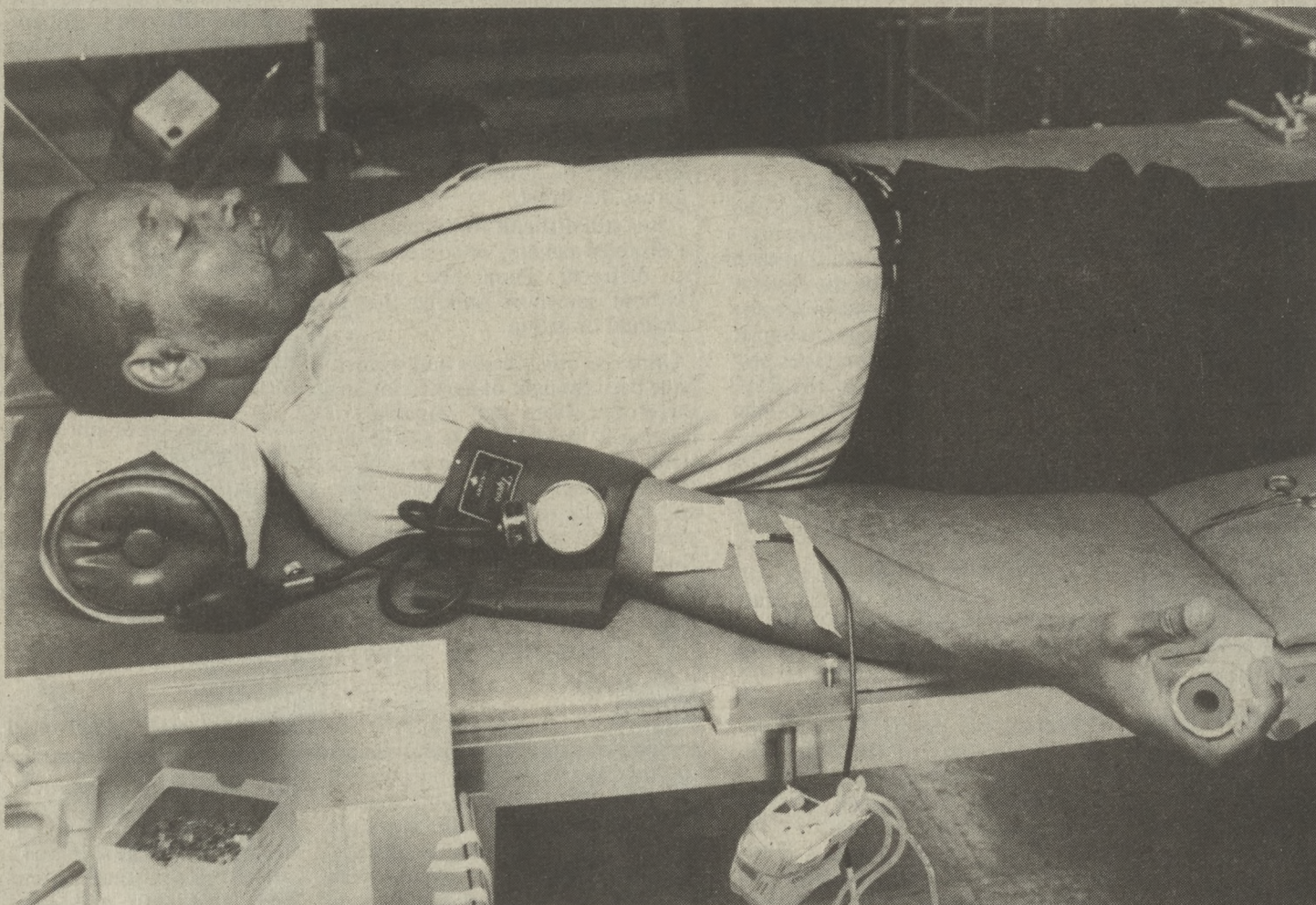
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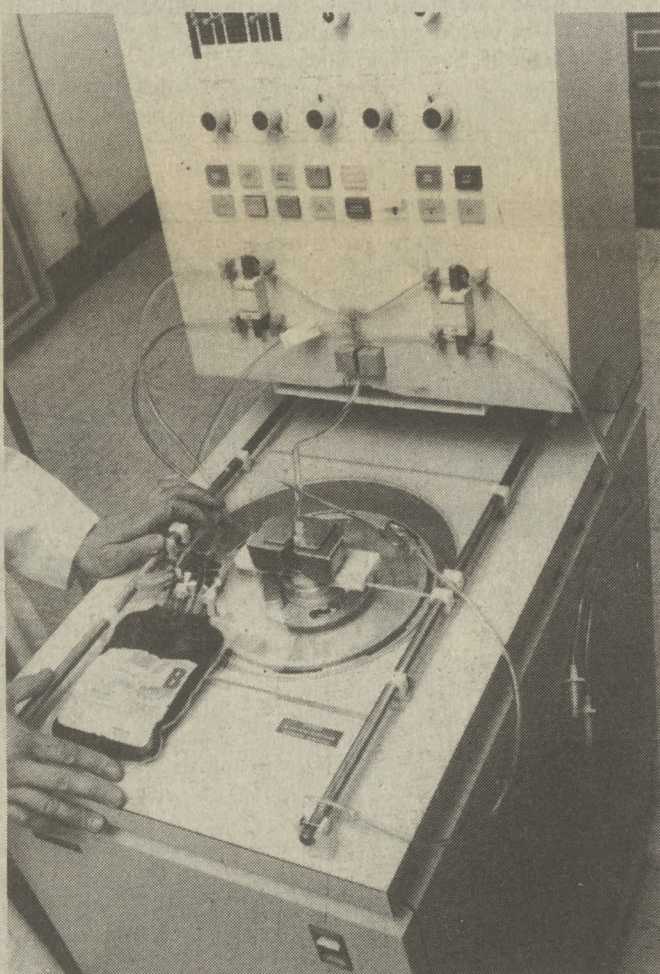


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*"Blood is like a parachute. . .*

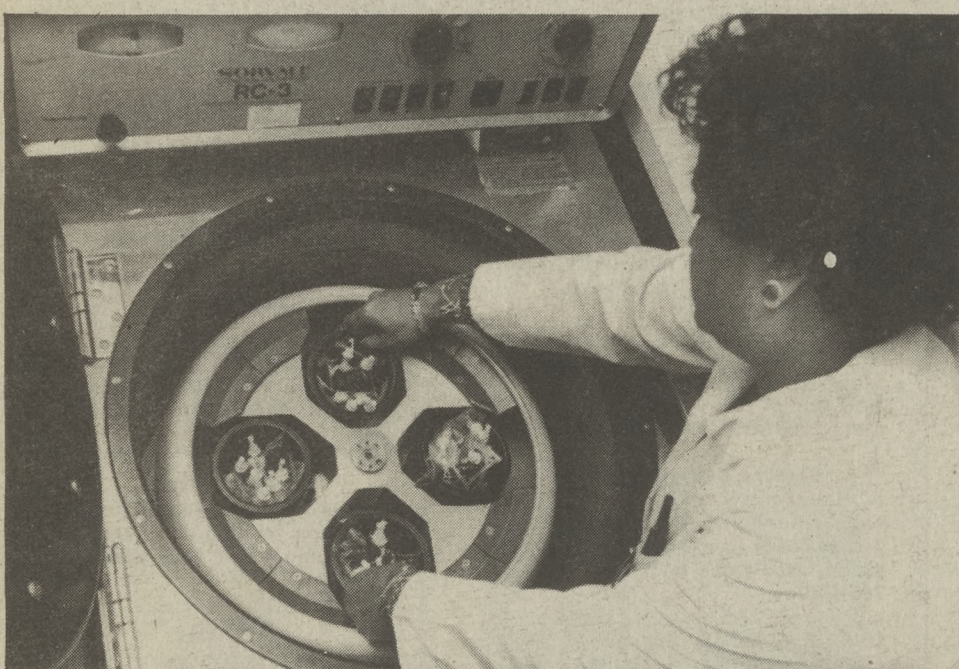
*chances are if it's not there when you need it you'll never need it again."*

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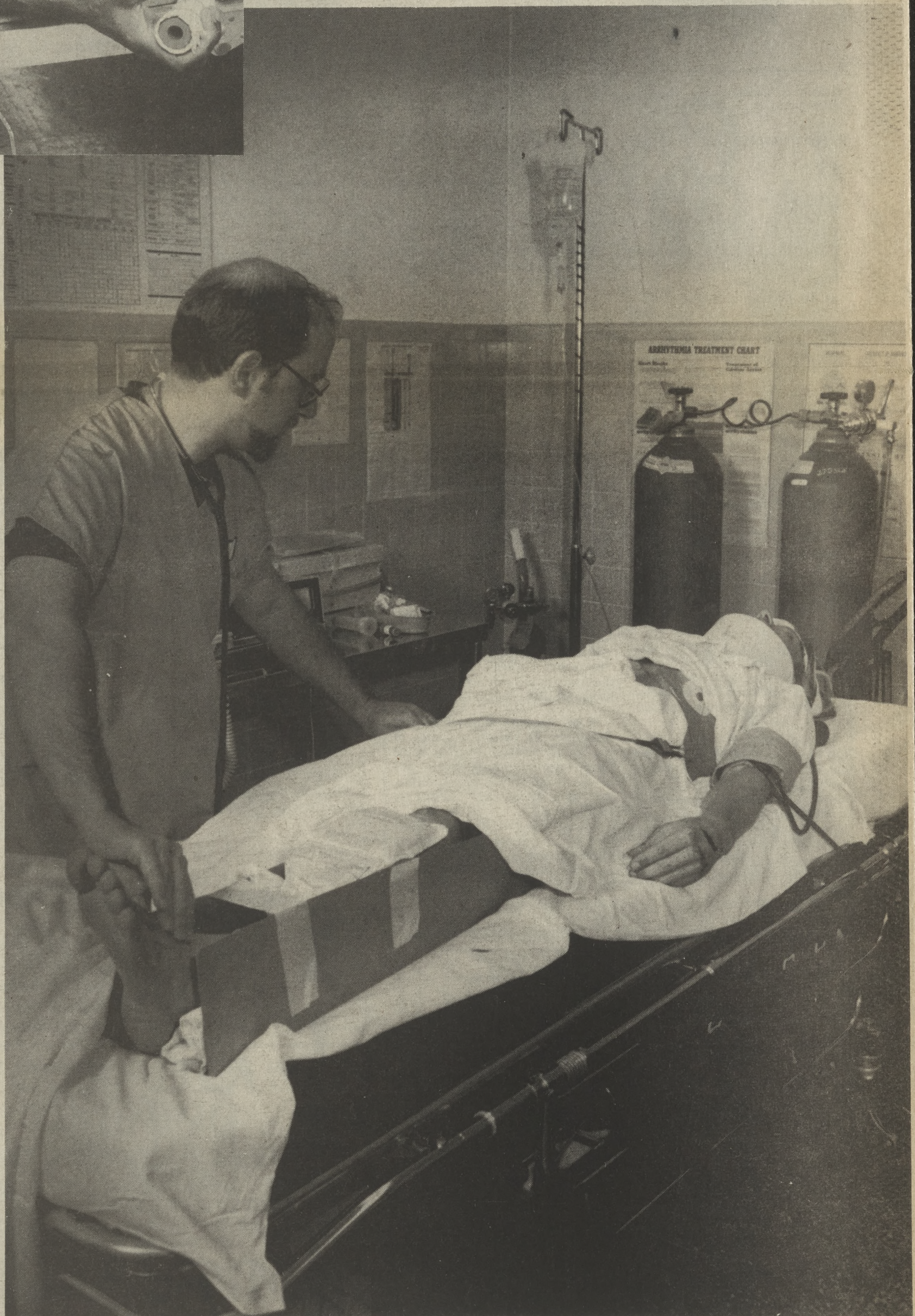
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